

March 23, 2009

Honorable Michael B. Donley
Secretary of the Air Force
1670 Air Force
Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330-1670

Dear Mr. Secretary:

We write to you today to reaffirm and express our unwavering support for the mission of Luke Air Force Base. We recognize the military value of Luke Air Force Base to our nation's military, as well as its economic importance to the state of Arizona, particularly in this challenging economic environment.

Fourteen jurisdictions surround Luke Air Force Base in the West Valley. For decades our communities have come together to work in a collaborative manner to build a partnership dedicated to protecting Luke's current mission of training F-16 fighter pilots and to advocate strongly for follow-on missions.

Recently, representatives from our region visited with Air Force Chief of Staff General Norton Schwartz and you to talk about Luke Air Force Base's viability as the second training base for the F-35 Lightning II. Discussed explicitly during your meeting was the statewide political support Luke Air Force Base enjoys today and will receive well into the future.

As with any region with multiple jurisdictions, local issues arise from time to time. In recent days, the city of El Mirage has raised concerns about its ability to sustain economic growth given its elected leaders' past planning decisions. This is a local planning and zoning issue which we expect will be resolved, as other local issues have been recently addressed.

The city of El Mirage has sought to highlight their concerns in the media. We understand the potential misperceptions which could occur with this approach. Therefore, we feel it is important to clearly state our continued broad-based position of support for Luke Air Force Base and the Air Force's current or future missions at this installation. Simply, we remain strong proponents for Luke Air Force Base as well as its mission, and the military families assigned to the Base. We respectfully disagree with the approach taken by our colleagues in the city of El Mirage.


You have our assurance that our communities will continue to work in close coordination with the Base Leadership, and, further, that this matter will be resolved locally. We will be pleased to provide any updates which you, or your designee, wish to receive.

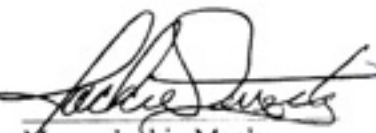
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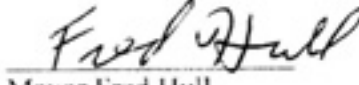
Page 2

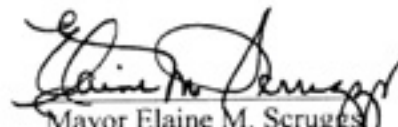
Thank you for the tremendous support which the Air Force continues to offer us on a daily basis. Please be assured that our commitment to the Department and Luke Air Force Base remains steadfast and strong.

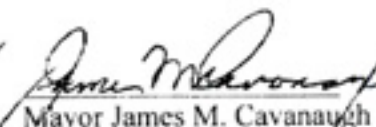
Sincerely,



Mayor Marie Lopez Rogers
Avondale


Mayor Jackie Meek
Buckeye


Mayor Fred Hull
Gila Bend


Mayor Elaine M. Scruggs
Glendale

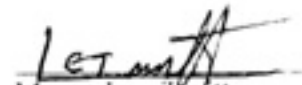

Mayor James M. Cavanaugh
Goodyear



Mayor Thomas Schoaf
Litchfield Park



Chairman Max Wilson
Maricopa County


Mayor Bob Barrett
Peoria


Councilwoman Thelda Williams
Phoenix


Mayor Lyn Truitt
Surprise


Mayor Mike LeVault
Youngtown


Mayor Kelly Blunt
Wickenburg

Cc: Senator John McCain
Senator Jon Kyl
Congressman Trent Franks
Congresswoman Ann Kirkpatrick
Congressman John Shadegg
Congressman Ed Pastor
Congressman Harry Mitchell

Congressman Jeff Flake
Congressman Raul Grijalva
Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords
Governor Jan Brewer
Attorney General Terry Goddard
General Norton Schwartz, Air Force Chief of Staff